(d) Such a classification is not adopted by BIS.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Steps like media publicity, seminars conferences, participation in buyer-seller meets and exhibitions etc. are taken to encourage the use of the ISI Marks.

Disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat

3132. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to c) In a meeting held at Gandhinagar on 30th November, 1991 with the leading millers and traders, Union Finance Minister, Union Minister of State for Commerce, Chief-Minister Gujarat and Union Minister of State for Civil Supplies and Public Distribution appealed them to reduce voluntarily the price of groundnut oil as a gesture to cooperate with the Govt. in its efforts of bringing down the prices of the commodities. The millers and traders, who participated in the meeting, responded positively and offered to observe voluntarily a measure of price restraints and agreed to ensure sale of groundnut oil in lose at Rs. 38 per Kg. Following the announcement of this voluntary reduction in prices, there was no transaction in the initial few days as there was some confusion in the trading circles. The position has now improved and reportedly there is no difficulty with the availability at present.

Strengthening of Public Distribution System

3133. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute tea, soap, pulses, note books, matchboxes and washing soap through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any target date has been fixed for its implementation;

(c) in what manner Government propose to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the identified intergrated tribal development projects areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas and designated Hill areas; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw upper strata of society from PDS altogether so that PDS benefits could reach the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Proposals to include items like tea, soap, pulses and salt for distribution through PDS outlets were discussed in the 13th meeting of Advisory Council on PDS held on 23rd & 24th August, 91 and subsequently in the Chief Minister's Conference held in October, 91. It was suggested to State Govts. that they consider distribution of a additional items using PDS outlets wherever feasible, based on local requirements. It was also agreed that National level organisations such as Tea Board, NAFED, NCCF etc. would help State Governments in arranging supplies of these commodities subject to availability and acceptability of prices of these commodities. Some State Governments are already distributing such items through PDS outlets.

(c) The Scheme for streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System in the identified integrated tribal development project areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas

and certain designated hill areas include opening of additional fair price shop's to improve access, issue of additional ration cards to cover all families living in such areas that have not been covered so far, creation of additional storage capacity in such areas where necessary, strengthening of delivery arrangements to the fair price shops wherever feasible, introduction of additional commodities for distribution through PDS outlets, elimination of bogus ration cards and effective reach of foodgrains to the people in these areas. The process is to be continual one initially over 1992.

(d) There is no proposals as at present to withdraw the benefits of public distribution system from any section of the population.

Ration shops without food

3134. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th December, 1991 captioned "Ration Shops go without Food" and that barring Naraina Godowns of the other State Civil Supplies Corporation other Godowns in the Capital are vacant at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for drastic cut and non-availability of rationed cereals and Sugar for the last several months in Delhi and also in Rajasthan and Orissa States;

(c) the number of complaint received so far in his Ministry from the Fair Price Shops Licences regardiny the alleged malpractices for (i) out of turn allotment of foodgrains instead of taking serially the indents, (ii) poor quality of cereals particularly rice and (iii) shortage in quantum of bags etc. by Food Corporation of India and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation during 1990-91 and upto 30th November, 1991, and action taken thereon so far; and

(d) what remedial measures have so far been taken by Government to restore regular supplies of rationed cereals particularly in Delhi, Rajasthan and Orissa

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There has been no drastic cut in the allotment of foodgrains to States|UTs. except 10 per cent reduction in the month of December, 91 in the allocation of wheat and general withdrawal of increases in the rice allocation made during lean season (August to November 91). There has been no reduction in the allocation of levy sugar to States|UTs. The Central Government has increased the levy Sugar allocation to States|UTs by 5 per cent for the months of August to December, 1991.

(c) Administration of Public Distribution System (PDS) being with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations, statistics in this regard are maintained by them and not by the Central Government.

FCI issues foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to State Government|U.T.. Administrations. The agencies lifting foodgrains from FCI depots are permitted to inspect the stocks before accepting the consignment. Delhi Administration has however reported that during the period from April, 1990 to November, 1991 nearly 187 cases for replacement were received, and replacements have been made in most of the cases.

100 cases of shortages were received at the time of delivery and these shortages were made food, wherever found necessary.

(d) Central Government have requested the State Governments and U.T. Administrations from time to time to take steps to ensure timely supplies of PDS commodities to consumers and undertake regular checks and strengthen vigilance. PDS allocations are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirements of States|UTs.